

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for providing secure electronic commerce transactions with multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between at least one client computer system and a vendor computer system; and

transmitting transaction information between said client computer system and said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to select and purchase, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a merchant computer system by a plurality of merchants.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step further comprises:

generating a purchase order for said items after said user's selection of at least one of said items for purchase from said merchant computer system via said vendor computer system.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

obtaining payment from said user; and

transmitting payment to at least one of said plurality of merchants on behalf of said user.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said payment is obtained by an operator of said vendor computer system.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step of transmitting transaction information further comprises:

monitoring an information exchange between said client computer system and said merchant computer system at said vendor computer system to obtain said transaction information.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

modifying responses from said merchant computer system to said client computer system at said vendor computer system to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said vendor computer system.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of step of transmitting transaction information further comprises:

displaying one or more icons corresponding to said plurality of merchants at said client computer for user selection; and

providing said items listed in said merchant computer system to said user at said client system computer via said vendor computer system, upon said user selection of at least one of said one or more icons.

8. (Amended) A method for performing secure electronic commerce with multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor computer system; and

transmitting transaction information between said client computer system and said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to obtain, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant computer systems by one or more merchants.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
generating a purchase order for said items.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein a vendor of said vendor computer system forwards payments to said one or more merchants for the supplied items on behalf of said user.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said user makes payment to said vendor for said supplied items.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said vendor computer system is further configured to perform the steps of:

a2 monitoring an information exchange between said client computer and said plurality of merchant computer systems at said vendor computer system to obtain said transaction information.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

modifying responses from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said client computer system at said vendor computer system to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said vendor computer system.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

a3 displaying a merchant icon associated with at least one of said one or more merchants at said client computer system for selection by said user; and
upon said selection by said user of said merchant icon, providing a merchant list of items from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said user at said client computer system via said vendor computer system.